

Message Text

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ACTION SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2159

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4120

FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJECT: US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. I DELIVERED YOUR MESSAGE TO ROVIRA YESTERDAY AFTER-
NOON. HE AGREED TO A PRIVATE MEETING WITH YOU ON
MONDAY MORNING, AND SAID THAT A PLENARY SESSION IN THE
AFTERNOON WAS ALSO AGREEABLE. HE THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT
BE USEFUL TO BREAK UP INTO WORKING GROUPS AND HE WOULD
LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS WITH YOU.

2. ROVIRA SAID THAT ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 12, THERE
HAD BEEN A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL UNDER
THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PRIME MINISTER, ATTENDED BY
CORTINA, HIMSELF, THE THREE MILITARY MINISTERS, AND
GUTIERREZ MELLADO. THE MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED TO
DISCUSS THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IN POINT OF FACT
IT HAD SPENT MOST OF ITS TIME ON THE SAHARA. ROVIRA
DESCRIBED TO ME AS FOLLOWS THE GENERAL THRUST OF THAT
PART OF THE MEETING WHICH CONCERNED THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE MEETING HAD STARTED OFF ON A SOMEWHAT SOUR NOTE,
AS ARIAS WAS FURIOUS OVER THE MEETING EARLIER THIS WEEK
ON THE HILL, INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA DEMOCRATICA.

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ROVIRA HAD BEEN ABLE TO CALM HIM DOWN, BASED ON

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ALBA.

4. ROVIRA SAID THAT THE GOS APPROACHES THE NEXT ROUND IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND THE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAD CREATED IN HIS CONVERSATIONS, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE VISIT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEALING WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS AS SUCH, ALTHOUGH IT WAS HOPED THAT THE GOOD CLIMATE CREATED BY THE VISIT WOULD HAVE THEIR EFFECT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE GOS HAD NO "HARD FEELINGS" WITH RESPECT TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED DURING THE DISCUSSION OF SPAIN IN NATO AND WAS INDEED "GRATEFUL" FOR THE EFFORTS WHICH THE US HAD MADE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, ROVIRA SAID THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD GIVE HIM A RUNDOWN IN PRIVATE AS TO WHAT HAD REALLY HAPPENED AT THE DPC AND AT THE "SUMMIT" ON SPAIN. IN OTHER WORDS, HOW HAD THE QUESTION BEEN DEALT WITH AND WHICH AMONGST THE NATO COUNTRIES WAS THE LEADER IN THE ANTI-SPANISH ATTITUDE. THE GOS WAS INCLINED TO THINK THAT IT WAS THE UK.

6. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL, HE SAID, IF YOU COULD ADDRESS YOURSELF IN A PLENARY SESSION TO AN EVALUATION OF THE PROSPECTS FOR A LINK BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO, IF NOT NOW, THEN AT SOME FUTURE TIME. ROVIRA CONFIRMED THAT CORTINA'S RECOLLECTION OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY ON THIS POINT WAS SOMEWHAT HAZY AND THAT WHEN THE QUESTION CAME UP IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING, CORTINA INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT RECALLED ANY UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO A UNILATERAL DECLARATION. (ROVIRA SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS POINT FURTHER WITH YOU IN PRIVATE.) THE SPANISH DELEGATION WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE A US REACTION TO THE POINTS THE SPANISH DELEGATION MADE ON FACILITIES AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE FIFTH ROUND. HE AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED FOR US, GIVEN THE FACT THAT HE PERSONALLY UNDERSTOOD THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEM OF TRYING TO SEPARATE US-SPANISH RELATED REQUIREMENTS FROM US-NATO REQUIREMENTS. (THE SPANISH KEEP COMING BACK TO THIS POINT AND IT MAY BE IF WE CAN DEVISE SOME FORMULA WHEREBY UNITS OPERATING OUT OF ROTA, TORREJON AND ZARAGOZA CAN BE PUBLICLY DESIGNATED AS US UNITS ONLY, AND NOT EARMARKED FOR NATO, DURING THE TIME THEY ARE IN SPAIN, THIS MIGHT HELP. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE UNDER

THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE CANNOT PROVIDE
A LINK BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO.)

7. ROVIRA ALSO INDICATED THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY
HAD DEVELOPED SOME POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO
ASSISTANCE FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE SPANISH ARMED
FORCES AND THAT THESE VIEWS MIGHT USEFULLY BE
DISCUSSED IN A WORKING GROUP. ROVIRA HAS TOLD ME
THAT HE HAS TRIED TO GET THE SPANISH MILITARY TO
REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE ASTRONOMIC FIGURES THEY
HAVE BEEN PLAYING WITH ARE SIMPLY NOT BALLPARK FIGURES.

8. ANOTHER TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING THE MEETINGS
MIGHT BE THE NON-MILITARY ASPECTS. IT MIGHT BE
USEFUL TO DEVELOP SOME PROJECTS IN THE FORM OF
JOINT VENTURES IN SPECIFIC FIELDS, FOR EXAMPLE,
SOLAR ENERGY. ROVIRA HINTED THAT THE DELEGATION
MIGHT ALSO RAISE TRADE QUESTIONS, INCLUDING GSP.
ON THE LATTER POINT, I URGED HIM NOT TO INTRODUCE THIS
SUBJECT WHICH, I SAID, I WAS DEALING WITH SEPARATELY
AND HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER
OF COMMERCE.

9. ROVIRA SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE TO YOU
THAT THERE BE SOME ACCELERATION IN THE PRESENT
PATTERN OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT
BE SUFFICIENT TO CONTINUE MEETING FOR ONLY FOUR
OR FIVE DAYS EACH MONTH AND BELIEVED IT
MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO AGREE ON A MORE FREQUENT
CALENDAR. (I KNOW THAT THIS VIEW CORRESPONDS
WITH THE FEELING IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
THAT WITH SEPTEMBER APPROACHING, THE PACE OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE STEPPED UP.)
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10. FINALLY, ROVIRA SAID THAT SPAIN WANTED AN
AGREEMENT WITH US AND THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBTS
ON THIS SCORE, ALTHOUGH IT STILL REMAINED THAT THE
AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE ONE WHICH THE GOS COULD
LIVE WITH WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC OPINION.

11. I AM SENDING AS A SEPARATE MESSAGE A REPORT
OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR
AND PERINAT, WHICH COMPLEMENTS ROVIRA'S COMMENTS.
I WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT PERINAT WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 12.

12. BEST WISHES FOR THE NEXT ROUND.
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